

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] As illustrated in Figure 5, the tie down harness of the present invention comprises hub means 24. Hub means 24 is preferably a circular ring fabricated from a metal, such as hardened steel, aluminum, etc., and is capable of withstanding the forces applied thereto by tightening of the ratchet clamp and/or by those forces created when an off-road, or other, vehicle is operated under extremely adverse conditions. As previously described, anchoring straps 18 and 20 and cargo securing straps 22 are secured to hub means 24 by passing the free ends of the various straps through the appropriate hub means and then securing the ends by means of stitching 44 to form loops 42. Other appropriate means may be utilized for securing the anchoring straps and cargo securing straps to the hub means, for example, rivets, snaps, buttons, etc. It should be appreciated that loops 42 allow the anchoring straps and cargo securing straps to slide about the circumference of hub means 24, in ~~he~~ the direction of the various arrows, such that the position of the straps can be adjusted to accommodate different types and differently shaped cargoes. It should also be appreciated that while in a preferred embodiment, the hub means is circular, other shape of hub means may be utilized, for example, oval, arcuate, polygonal, or combinations thereof.

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] Figures 2 and 5 further illustrate that the present invention comprises at least two, and preferably three, cargo securing straps 22. Similar to the anchoring straps, cargo securing straps 22 comprise a flexible, webbed material, such as nylon, cotton or nylon/cotton mix, of substantial tensile strength. Center cargo securing straps 46 are provided for traversing the top of cargo such that up and down movement of the cargo in relation to the substrate, may be prevented and/or minimized. Outer cargo securing straps 48 and 50 are provided for traversing

the cargo along the sides thereof such that forward and rearward movement of the cargo, in relation to the substrate, may be prevented and/or minimized. Both the center and the outer cargo securing straps further act to prevent side to side, or rightward and leftward, movement of cargo, in relation to the substrate. While the cargo securing straps of the present invention may further comprise sliding buckles for adjusting the length of the straps, in a preferred embodiment, outer cargo securing straps 48 and 50 are arranged to traverse the sides of the cargo along upper portions thereof, or ~~at or~~ above the center of gravity of the cargo, such that they do not apply a destabilizing, or undercutting, force upon the cargo. Finally, it should be appreciated that while a preferred embodiment of the invention comprises three cargo securing straps, embodiments of the invention comprising two cargo securing straps may be configured and/or adjusted such that cargo may be secured to a substrate having more than one side, for example, a cargo rack having horizontal and vertical securing surfaces. Arranged in this manner, one cargo securing strap preferably applies a securing force to prevent vertical movement of cargo and the remaining cargo securing strap applies a force to prevent horizontal movement of cargo.

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

A device for securing cargo includes at least first and second anchoring straps, ~~means a~~ ratchet clamp for adjusting the length of at least one of the first and second anchoring straps, at least two cargo securing straps, at least two ~~hub means~~ ring hubs for ~~slideably~~ slidably securing an end of each of the anchoring straps and an end of the at least two cargo securing straps. In a preferred embodiment the anchoring straps and cargo securing straps are formed from a fabric webbed material. ~~and the means for adjusting the length of an anchoring strap comprises a is adjusted by the ratchet clamp.~~